AIDS drug

1122. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our AIDS drugs have been adjudged as the best in the world;

(b) if so, the details of the drugs which have been acknowledged universally best;

(c) whether it is also a fact that WHO and other developed countries are procuring these high quality drugs; and

(d) if so, the details of these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The generic anti-retroviral drugs being manufactured by Indian pharmaceutical companies are on the approved list of WHO. They are more cost effective than the branded drugs manufactured in western countries.

Indian anti-retroviral drugs have been tested in the Cameroon by the French National Agency for Research on AIDS. It was found that the Indian combination of generic drugs works as well as the branded name drugs.

(c) and (d) WHO has procured ARV drugs from Indian pharmaceutical companies and has supplied for use in the National AIDS Control Programme.

It is learnt that generic anti-retroviral drugs are exported by the pharmaceutical industry to other countries but we do not monitor this matter.

Delay in settlement of Bills

1123. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is undue delay in the settlement of the bills for the supply of medicines to CGHS pensioners during chemists' strike;

(b) if so, the average time taken in settling pensioners claim for reimbursement; and

(c) the number of claims with approximate amount pending with his Ministry as on the 15th June, 2004 with the names of beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It generally takes about one to three months to settle the medical reimbursement claims of the CGHS pensioner cardholders.

(c) Information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Abuse of provisions of Organ Transplantation Act

1124. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the abuse of the provisions of 'compassionate' donor' in the Organ Transplantation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concept of organ purchase has acquired 'dubious dimensions' with touts operating as middle-men;

(d) if so, whether the National Human Rights Commission has suggested steps to curb the practice;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken by Government to suitably amend the Organ Transplantation Act to check the abuse of its provisions?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.